

CHAPTER 1.5.6.

**MEASURES CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL
[TRANSFER] TRANSPORT OF AQUATIC ANIMAL
PATHOGENS AND PATHOLOGICAL MATERIAL**

Article 1.5.6.1.

Objective

To prevent the introduction and spread of *aquatic animal diseases* caused by pathogens via packaged materials undergoing international transport.

Article 1.5.6.2.

Introduction

[The consequences of the introduction into a country of an infectious *disease* or an aquatic animal pathogen or new strain of pathogen from which it is currently free, are potentially very serious. This is because aquatic animal health and trade may all be adversely affected to a greater or a lesser degree. Countries will already have in place a range of measures, such as requirements for pre-import testing and *quarantine*, to prevent such introductions through the importation of live *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal products*.]

[However,] There is [also] the *risk* that *disease* may occur as a result of the accidental release of aquatic animal pathogens during international [transfer] transport of packaged materials. Such pathogens may already occur in the country or they may have been imported deliberately or inadvertently. It is therefore necessary to have in place measures to prevent their accidental release. These measures may be applied at national borders by prohibiting or controlling the importation of specified pathogens or *pathological material*, which may contain them.

Article 1.5.6.3.

Importation of aquatic animal pathogens

The importation of [any aquatic animal pathogen,] a disease agent/pathogen listed in this Code, whether in culture, in pathological material or [organisms carrying the pathogen] in any other form should be [permitted only under an import licence issued] officially controlled by the [relevant] Competent Authority to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to manage the risk posed by the pathogen. The [import licence should contain] conditions should be appropriate to the *risk* posed by the pathogen and, in relation to air transport, the appropriate standards of the International Air Transport Association or other relevant transport associations concerning the packaging and transport of dangerous goods as outlined in Article 1.5.6.4.

When considering applications to import a disease agent/pathogen listed in this Code, whether in culture, in pathological material or in any other form from other countries, the authorities should have regard to the nature of the material, the animal from which it is derived, the susceptibility of that animal to various *diseases* and the animal health situation of the country of origin. It may be advisable to require that material be pretreated before import to minimise the risk of inadvertent introduction of a pathogen.

Any material that does not satisfy the applied conditions should be returned or sterilised together with its packing, immediately upon receipt.

Article 1.5.6.4.

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Packaging and documentation for transport

The safe transfer of an aquatic animal pathogen, with respect to the pathogen, the handlers and the environment, is primarily dependent on proper packaging and it is the responsibility of the sender that this is done in accordance with current regulations.

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